

Express Mail No.: EV719380812US
International Application No.: PCT/JP2005/002881
International Filing Date: February 23, 2005
Preliminary Amendment Accompanying
Substitute Specification

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A conductive paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_L and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_H at a weight ratio of $X : (1-X)$, where MW_L , MW_H and X are selected so that $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$ falls within a range of 145,000 to 215,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinyl methyl ether, dihydroterpinyl oxyethanol, terpinyl methyl ether, terpinyl oxyethanol, d-dihydrocarveol, I-mentyl acetate, I-citronellol, I-perillylalcohol and acetoxy-methoxyethoxy-cyclohexanol acetate.

2. (Original) A conductive paste in accordance with Claim 1, wherein MW_L , MW_H and X are selected so that $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$ falls within a range of 155,000 to 205,000.

3. (Original) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component comprising a step of printing a conductive paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_L and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_H at a weight ratio of $X : (1-X)$, where MW_L , MW_H and X are selected so that $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$ falls within a range of 145,000 to 215,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinyl methyl ether, dihydroterpinyl oxyethanol, terpinyl methyl ether, terpinyl oxyethanol, d-dihydrocarveol, I-mentyl acetate, I-citronellol, I-perillylalcohol and acetoxy-methoxyethoxy-cyclohexanol acetate,

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I-menthyl acetate, I-citronellol, I-perillylalcohol and acetoxy-methoxyethoxy-cyclohexanol acetate on a ceramic green sheet containing an acrylic system resin as a binder in a predetermined pattern, thereby forming an electrode layer.

4. (Original) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with Claim 3, wherein MW_L , MW_H and X are selected so that $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$ falls within a range of 155,000 to 205,000.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with Claim 3-~~or~~4, which further comprises a step of printing a dielectric paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_L and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_H at a weight ratio of $X : (1-X)$, where MW_L , MW_H and X are selected so that $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$ falls within a range of 110,000 to 180,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinyl methyl ether, dihydroterpinyl oxyethanol, terpinyl methyl ether, terpinyl oxyethanol, d-dihydrocarveol, I-menthyl acetate, I-citronellol, I-perillylalcohol and acetoxy-methoxyethoxy-cyclohexanol acetate on the ceramic green sheet in a complementary pattern to that of the electrode layer after drying the electrode layer, thereby forming a spacer layer.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with Claim 3-~~or~~4, which further comprises a step of printing a dielectric paste containing a binder containing ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_L and ethyl cellulose having a weight average molecular weight of MW_H at a weight ratio of $X : (1-X)$

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X), where MW_L , MW_H and X are selected so that $X * MW_L + (1-X) * MW_H$ falls within a range of 110,000 to 180,000 and at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of isobornyl acetate, dihydroterpinal methyl ether, dihydroterpinal oxyethanol, terpinal methyl ether, terpinal oxyethanol, d-dihydrocarveol, I-mentyl acetate, I-citronellol, I-perillylalcohol and acetoxy-methoxyethoxy-cyclohexanol acetate on the ceramic green sheet in a complementary pattern to that of the electrode layer prior to forming the electrode layer, thereby forming a spacer layer.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with any one of Claims 3 to 6, wherein the weight-average molecular weight of the acrylic system resin is equal to or larger than 250,000 and equal to or smaller than 500,000.

8. (Original) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with Claim 7, wherein the weight-average molecular weight of the acrylic system resin is equal to or larger than 450,000 and equal to or smaller than 500,000.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component in accordance with any one of Claims 3 to 8, wherein the acid value of the acrylic system resin is equal to or larger than 5 mgKOH/g and equal to or smaller than 10 mgKOH/g.